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W9HHX

The amateur radio club began an active fall term with enthusiastic support from the freshman class of 1969. Twelve new individuals joined the club raising total membership to 27. The present membership is interested in all phases of amateur radio and represents a high degree of technical proficiency in electronics. Three members hold the highest amateur license, the amateur extra class; nine additional members are certified at the second highest level as advanced class licensees. In addition to these, three first class radiotelephone licenses are held by club members. This license is the professional radio license and grants to the holder authority to maintain and operate any radio or television station in the nation! New growth is also seen in the club among five non-licensed individuals and two newly licensed novices.

The highlight of the fall term was the purchase of new equipment for the novice operating position. This is the first addition of new equipment in five years and was undertaken for the advancement of the club by the present membership. Finances were raised entirely through dues and by the conservation of expenses over the past year and a half. The new equipment is a Drake 2B receiver and a Johnson Ranger transmitter. Both pieces are solidly designed units and form a highly effective communications station.

The input power is 100 watts of CW, capable of world wide contacts. This new equipment affords a backup station to our main position and permits W9HHX to be on two frequencies simultaneously.

The radio club has been endowed this fall with a very historic piece of electronic equipment to the city of Milwaukee. The unit is a Western Electric transmitter Model 353F1, serial number 101. This was the first communications transmitter used by the Milwaukee police department. It has AM modulation, 100 watts output power, and was in service from 1934 to 1959. It was used in conjunction with a linear amplifier to boost the signal to a full kilowatt output. A quarter wave tower at 47th & Vliet completed the station. Many a shortwave listener will remember the strong signal of KSA536 and the heartbeat of Milwaukee he heard on 2450 KHz. Warm thanks are extended to club member John Aegerter for the location of this unit.

W9HHX is currently participating in the latest national trend in amateur radio operation - 2 meter FM. The great availability of obsolete dispatching rigs used by public utilities, taxis, police, and government agencies has put new emphasis on VHF operations. Beginning this fall W9HHX has had use of a Motorola D33GGV. The unit is converted to the national amateur radio calling frequency of 146.94 MHz. All operation is on specified channels and no tuning is required to monitor messages. Herein lies its advantage.

Operation is within the metropolitan area and affords a link between several club members with similar units. The effectiveness of this type of communication was demonstrated one October morning when W9HHX received a report from a mobile amateur radio operator of an accident on highway 141 at North avenue. The club immediately reported the situation to the Milwaukee county sheriff who dispatched via police radio a patrol car. Radio is communication serving the community!

Operating proficiency of W9HHX members remains high. Three exceedingly rare countries were contacted this fall. The countries are Saudi Arabia, Laos, and Mongolia. W9HHX also shared in the technological achievements of the most recent Apollo XII moon launch when it was the second station in the country to work the Cape Kennedy amateur radio station after lift off. For this feat W9HHX is anticipating a commemorative certificate. The club also has on proud display a certificate signed by Governor Warren P. Knowles commending the radio club for service rendered to the state of Wisconsin. This was obtained for participation in Wisconsin Week, September 21-27. During this week W9HHX informed all stations it contacted of pertentent facts about Wisconsin and encouraged closer relations to the state of Wisconsin. Results of the June national field day activities were received early in November. The event is designed to test the preparedness of radio operators to set up and operate a radio

station under simulated emergency conditions. As expected, the club had significantly bettered last year's performance. Within its catagory of 242 club stations, W9HHX had placed 15th in the nation and first in Wisconsin.

Phone patch services remain open and are available to all radio stations requesting such facilities. One recent day saw three long distance phone patches between South America and Illinois, Missouri, and Oregon. Situations vary but usually the club is uniting families separated by continents.

All persons interested in radio whether licensed operators or not are cordially invited to visit W9HHX at their convience. Regularly scheduled club meetings are held on Friday evenings of the first week of the school term and every third week thereafter.